

Message Text

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SUBJ: FOOD SUPPLIES IN ODESSA

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT - DURING VISITS TO STATE STORES BY EMBOFFS IN ODESSA ON JANUARY 15, ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BRDJD, KOLBASA, CHEESE, BUTTER, AND PORK LARD WERE OBSERVED ON X KE. FORZEN FISH WAS AVAILABLE BUT MUTTON AND EGGS WERE NOT. STREET KIOSKS, OERATING AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS WERE SELLING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES, EGGS, CHICKEN AND BEEF. BASED UPON LIMITED OBSERVATIONS, FOOD SITUATION SEEMED GOOD, PROBABLY REFLECTING ADVANTAGE ODESSA BEING MAJOR CONSUMER GOODS PORT RECEIVING AREA. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT

2. DURING VISIT TO PORT OF ODESSA JANUARY 15-16, EMBOFFS VISITED SEVERAL STATE STORES AND STREET KIOSKS IN CENTRAL ODESSA AT MID-DAY JANUARY 15. A STATE "CULINARY" STORE AT NO. 2 ULITSA KANDYNA HAD ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BUTTER, PORK FAT, KOLBASA, FORZEN FISH, WHITE CHEESE AND A SMALL AMOUNT OF WHITE BREAD FOR SALE. NO BEEF, EGGS, OR MUTTON WERE OBSERVED. A STATE KOLBASA STORE AT NO. 3 ULITSA LENINA HAD SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIES OF AT LEAST NINE TYPES OF KOLBASA FOR SALE RANGING IN PRICE FROM 2-3.5 RUBLES/ KILO. THE SAME STORE HAD ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF WHITE CHEESE AT 2.1-2.2 RUBLES/KILO.

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3. BREAD SITUATION WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO DISCERN MAINLY

BECAUSE DURING ONE-HOUR WALK IN DOWNTOWN ODESSA, EMBOFFS FOUND ONLY ONE BREAD STORE, AT NO. 12 ULITSA MAYAKOVSKI. IT SEEMS THAT LIKE MOSCOW, BREAD IS ALSO SOLD IN OTHER FOOD STORES IN ODESSA. THE ONE BREAD STORE VISITED HAD ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF WHITE, RYE, AND BROWN BREAD ALL IN SEVERAL VARIETIES. PRICE OF WHITE BREAD RANGED FROM 14-26 KOPECKS, BROWN 14-20, AND RYE 20 KOPECKS PER LOAF.

4. MOST STRIKING FEATURE WAS AMOUNT AND VARIETY OF GOODS AVAILABLE AT STREET KIOSKS. IN FRONT OF UKRAINA RESTAURANT AT NO. 12 ULITSA MARKSA, A STAND HAD A LARGE SUPPLY OF FIRST QUALITY BEEF AT 2.70 RUBLES/KILO, UNCOOKED CHICKEN HALVES AT 2.70, AND ROASTED CHICKEN HALVES AT 3.40. NO LINE WAS SEEN AT THIS STAND. ONE BLOCK AWAY AT NO. 6 ULITSA MARKSA, BEEF, HAMBURGER, AND MEAT WRAPPED IN A LABEL "SIBERIAN PELMENI" WERE BEING SOLD.

5. AT SEVERAL STREET LOCATIONS, EMBOFFS OBSERVED PLUMS, STRAWBERRIES, APPLES, AND CHERRIES BEING SOLD AND AT ONE LOCATION EACH, EGGS, HERRING, AND GREEN ONIONS WERE BEING SOLD. SUPPLIES SEEMED ADEQUATE BUT LINES WERE LONG.
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